



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 30 1996

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: National Remedy Review Board Findings on the Operating Industries, Inc.

FROM: Bruce Means, Chairman *B Means*
National Remedy Review Board

TO: Keith Takata, Director
Superfund Division
EPA Region 9

Purpose.

The purpose of this memorandum is to document the findings of the National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) on the proposed final site-wide remedial action at the Operating Industries, Inc. site in California.

Background.

As you recall, the NRRB was established as one of the October 1995 Superfund Administrative Reforms to help control remedy costs and promote both consistent and cost-effective decisions at Superfund sites. All proposed cleanup actions are to be reviewed by the Board where: (1) the estimated cost of the preferred alternative exceeds \$30M; or (2) the preferred alternative costs over \$10 M and this cost is 50% greater than that of the least-costly, protective, ARAR-compliant alternative. In its review, the NRRB considers the nature and complexity of the site; health and environmental risks; the range of alternative actions considered to address site risks; the quality and reasonableness of the cost estimates for alternatives; regional, State/tribal, and other stakeholder opinions on the proposed actions to the extent they are known at the time of review; and any other relevant factors or program guidances.

Generally, the NRRB makes "advisory recommendations" to the appropriate Regional decision maker prior to issuance of the proposed plan who is expected to give the Board's recommendations substantial weight. However, other important factors may influence the final Regional decision such as subsequent public comment or technical analyses of remedial options.

It is important to remember that the NRRB does not change the Agency's delegation authorities or alter in any way the public's current role in site decisions. This Reform is intended to bring to bear the program's extensive experience on decisions at a select number of high stakes sites.

NRRB Findings.

The NRRB reviewed relevant site information submitted on this site and discussed related issues with both the EPA Regional and State Remedial Project Managers on January 31, 1996. Based on this review and related discussion, the NRRB finds the proposed site-wide remedy to be consistent with actions at similar sites in other EPA Regions. Further, the NRRB finds that the proposed remedial action meets requirements set forth in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP) and applicable program guidance.

The Board members would especially like to thank the State and Regional staff for their support and participation in this review process. If you have any questions about these findings, please call me at 703-603-8815.

cc: S. Luftig
E. Laws
T. Fields
J. Clifford
F. Marcus
M. Newton